



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | APRIL 12, 2016

## Mayor Patrick Madden, Troy Cultural Alliance Announce Start of Troy Bicentennial Celebration, Release Details of Special Events

**TROY, NY – Mayor Patrick Madden** today joined members of the Troy Cultural Alliance (TCA), city and state elected officials, and community and neighborhood representatives for a press conference at the Rensselaer County Historical Society to announce the start of City of Troy's Bicentennial Celebration, commemorating 200 years of Collar City history since the city's official incorporation on April 12, 1816. The City of Troy has partnered with the newly formed Troy Cultural Alliance to connect the city's many diverse cultural organizations, promote Troy as a regional destination and to assist the City of Troy in coordinating events designed to celebrate the city's Bicentennial.

"The City of Troy is very excited about our partnership with the Troy Cultural Alliance to celebrate our city's Bicentennial this year" said **Mayor Patrick Madden**. "We look forward to collaborating with the TCA on the many special events that will highlight Troy's Bicentennial Celebration throughout 2016 to promote our city's rich history and heritage."

"The Troy Cultural Alliance is proud to partner with the City of Troy to celebrate the Bicentennial." says **Jon Elbaum, Executive Director of the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall and TCA Chair**. "Our mission to promote Troy as a cultural destination aligns with supporting the events surrounding this Bicentennial and will showcase the effects 200 years of cultural diversity and richness has had on our community."

Other participating arts and cultural organizations concur. **Elizabeth Reiss, CEO of The Arts Center of the Capital Region**, says "Bicentennials provide a forum for people of all ages to better understand their community – what it means to live, work and experience Troy. At the Arts Center our goal is to help people connect with Troy's creative spirit through engaging, hands-on programs. We've planned three free weekend programs to ensure everyone can celebrate Troy."

To that end, the Rensselaer County Historical Society has planned many events in observance of this historic milestone. "The Rensselaer County Historical Society is proud to help the City of Troy celebrate its rich history during this Bicentennial year. Troy was a 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial revolution leader and in the 21st century is a nano-technology leader. With focus on highlights of its early years till present days, all residents and neighbors of Troy can join in a grand year-long celebration of Troy's diverse history." says **Karin Krasevac-Lenz, RCHS's Executive Director**.

Troy's culturally broad and diverse patchwork of neighborhoods will also have an opportunity to take part in this year's Bicentennial Celebration. The city will be offering grant funding to neighborhood groups for community-focused Bicentennial events organized throughout the city to encourage collaboration among neighborhoods and organizations to embrace their unique attributes and history. Additional information on this neighborhood initiative will be announced by the Mayor's Office at a later date.

A full list of official Bicentennial Celebration events can be seen below. More events will be announced in the coming months.

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**The Arts Center of the Capital Region**

265 River Street, Troy, 518-273-0552, [artscenteronline.org](http://artscenteronline.org)

**Collar City Cool** - April 17, 2016, 1:30-3:30 FREE

Collars are once again being made by in Troy--this time by artists of all ages at the Arts Center! Use fabrics, felts, papers and cardboards and LED lights to make a modern-day collar for yourself, kids or even a favorite pet! Pre-registration at [www.artscenteronline.org](http://www.artscenteronline.org)

**Troy Voices: Then and Now** - September 23-25, 2016

**Performance Debut and Reception** - Friday, September 23, 6PM, FREE, Arts Center of the Capital Region

**Performance and Introduction to the Archives and Collections** - Sunday, September 25, 1PM, FREE, the Rensselaer County Historic Society

The Arts Center of the Capital Region and the Rensselaer County Historical Society collaborate on this thoughtful investigation into the characters who built Troy. The Rensselaer County Historic Society will open its-archives to eight writers, theater artists or performance artists (selected through an open call) to learn about the historic figures who made Troy what it is today. These artists will then use that inspiration to write monologues and weave together the history and people of Troy into new voices. The resulting works will culminated in staged performances at the Arts Center and at the Historic Society.

**Legends of Troy** - Saturday, September 24, 12 PM-5 PM FREE

From the legend of Diamond Rock to the tragic tale of Elsie Vaughn and the Mohawk warrior Dekanisora, Troy history is charged with stories bigger than life! Join us for day-long creative workshops that rediscover and celebrate legends of Troy.

**Making Troy** - Sunday, November 6, 2016, 12-5 PM

The Arts Center of the Capital Region, the Rensselaer County Historic Society and the Center of Gravity collaborate for a day-long, hands-on creative experience building Troy's past, present and future. Enjoy all three sites for day long workshops on metal casting, planning Troy's future, building water wheels and making historic letterpress documents. Troy was, and always will be a city of makers. Come enjoy making Troy once again.

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**Unveiling of the Col. Albert Pawling Memorial Statue in Pawling Park**

- When: 2pm – 4pm, Friday, April 15th
- Where: Pawling Park, 560 Congress Street, Troy
- What: The Unveiling & Dedication Col. Albert Pawling Memorial Statue

The statue celebrates the Bicentennial of Troy's incorporation as a city and the memory of a man who served as Troy's first mayor, Rensselaer County's first Sheriff and a Colonel in the American Revolution, serving as Aide-de-Camp on the staff of General George Washington. The date, April 15th, also marks the 200th year to the day when Col. Pawling was appointed the first Mayor of Troy.

The public is welcome to attend the unveiling for free, but seating is limited. The event will begin at 2pm. The event's program will have several speakers, including Troy Mayor Patrick Madden, Rensselaer County Sheriff Patrick Russo, and Brig. Gen. Raymond Shields of the New York State National Guard.

April 15th will also include a Wreath & Flag Raising Ceremony at Col. Pawling's gravesite in Old Mt. Ida Cemetery from 11am – 12pm and the Illumination of the Col. Albert Pawling Memorial Statue at 8pm.

If you wish to RSVP to the unveiling, please contact Adam Sanzone at 518-867-5047 or email [rsvp@pawlingstatue.org](mailto:rsvp@pawlingstatue.org).

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**Rensselaer County Historical Society**

57 Second St. Open from noon to 5 p.m. Thursday thru Saturday  
(518) 272-7232, [rchsonline.org](http://rchsonline.org)

**Visions of Troy: 200 Years a City, 1816-2016** - Now through December 17, 2016.

“Visions of Troy: 200 Years A City” kicked-off the bicentennial celebration of Troy’s establishment as a city in 1816. The exhibit captures Troy’s history in 50-year increments with the years 1816, 1866, 1916, 1966 and 2016 as touch points. Troy has been in the heart of U.S. history from giving the country Samuel Wilson as the model for Uncle Sam through the Industrial Revolution, when it was one of the nation’s richest communities, to the present. The exhibit also features the restored and lit iconic neon signs from the former South End Tavern!

Watch for news of changing exhibits each quarter in our Robison Family Meeting Room gallery!

**May and June History Walks**

History walks are held Saturdays in May, June, September and October. Led by RCHS staff, each tour has a different theme. Tours leave promptly at 10:30 am from the Farmer’s Market Information Booth. \$5 per person, free for RCHS members. No Reservation required. Please join us!

***The Air Was Full Of Smoke And Cinders: Troy’s Great Fire of 1862*** - Saturday, May 7, 2016

On May 10, 1862, fire erupted on a bridge crossing the Hudson River and within hours, more than 500 buildings in the city were destroyed. Walk back into history as you retrace the progress of the “Great Fire” and see the disaster’s impact.

**Explore Centennial Troy** - Saturday, May 14, 2016

Explore the last century of Troy’s history, through the lens of the built environment that is Troy today. We will explore Troy’s downtown historic district using historic photos that capture the city at key moments throughout its history. This tour is in conjunction with the Bicentennial exhibit Visions of Troy: 200 Years A City: 1816-2016. On view now at RCHS through December 19th, 2016.

**Washington Park** - Saturday, May 21, 2016

Explore one of Troy’s most iconic neighborhoods, Washington Park. *NOTE:* This tour only will meet at the corner of Second and Washington Street in Troy at 10:30 a.m.

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**Events for Troy’s Flag Day Parade, Sunday, June 12:**

**Finding Troy** - Sunday, June 12, 10 AM-5 PM at the Arts Center of the Capital Region

Before, during or after Troy’s fabulous Flag Day Parade join in on a city wide geocaching experience. Designed to show you more about Troy than you think you know, the search will make learning about Troy’s buildings, landmarks, streets and parks fun for the whole family. Brought to you by the Troy Cultural Alliance!

**Troy’s 49<sup>th</sup> Flag Day Parade!** - June 12, 2016

1 p.m. Start, arrive early for best viewing spots!

Parade Route along 4<sup>th</sup> Street

[www.troyflagday.org](http://www.troyflagday.org)

**The Troy Cultural Alliance** enables collaboration, nurtures creativity and provides a powerful voice to showcase the community impact of arts and culture. The Alliance leverages the unique qualities of our member organizations to boost the Troy brand as the creative hub of the Capital Region. More info at <http://www.troyculture.org/>

*Current members of the Troy Cultural Alliance are:*

*The Arts Center of the Capital Region • Chapel + Cultural Center • Ellen Sinopoli Dance • EMPAC • Friends of Chamber Music • PostContemporary • Rensselaer County Historical Society • HVCC • Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute • The Sanctuary for Independent Media • Troy Civic Theatre • Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway/Burden Iron Works Museum • Troy Public Library • Troy Savings Bank Music Hall*

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